

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-35, as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-15 (canceled)

16. (New) A method for operating a gas cooking hob, the cooking hob including at least two cooking points and at least one electronic control component, of which at least the second cooking point is further away from the electronic control component than the first cooking point, comprising:

sensing the temperature of the electronic control component;

one of rendering the first cooking point inoperational or reducing the calorific output of said first cooking point when a first predetermined threshold temperature is sensed; and

one of continuing to operate the second cooking point or maintaining said second cooking point calorific output unchanged when said first predetermined threshold temperature is sensed.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, including said electronic control component has a predetermined maximum permissible thermal load and said first predetermined threshold temperature is in a magnitude of about ca. 20 K below a temperature range reached at said predetermined maximum permissible thermal load.

18. (New) The method according to claim 16, including resetting one of the operability or the calorific output of

said first cooking point during operation of the cooking hob.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, including said resetting of one of the operability or the calorific output of said first cooking point during operation of the cooking hob occurs following the expiration of a preset cooling interval.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, including presetting the length of said preset cooling interval by the variation in time of the temperature of said electronic control component directly after said electronic control component enters said cooling interval.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, including presetting an angle of inclination of said variation in time of said temperature of said electronic control component and resetting one of said operability or said calorific output of said first cooking point when said variation in time of said temperature of said electronic control component falls at an angle of inclination greater than said preset angle of inclination.

22. (New) The method according to claim 19, including a second predetermined threshold temperature lower than said first predetermined threshold temperature and resetting said one of said operability or said calorific output of said first cooking point when said temperature of said electronic control component falls below said second predetermined threshold temperature.

23. (New) The method according to claim 19, including measuring said calorific output of said first cooking point and resetting said first cooking point to the measured calorific output before said temperature of said electronic control component before said first predetermined threshold temperature is exceeded.

24. (New) The method according to claim 16, including reducing said calorific output of said first cooking point when said first predetermined threshold temperature is sensed and then switching off said first cooking point if said temperature of said electronic control component still exceeds said first predetermined threshold temperature.

25. (New) The method according to claim 16, including additionally one of rendering said second cooking point inoperational or reducing the calorific output of said second cooking point if said temperature of said electronic control component still exceeds said first predetermined threshold temperature after a predetermined time period.

26. (New) The method according to claim 16, including a second predetermined threshold temperature which exceeds said first predetermined threshold temperature and including additionally one of rendering said second cooking point inoperational or reducing said calorific output of said second cooking point if said temperature of said electronic control component exceeds said second predetermined threshold temperature.

27. (New) The method according to claim 16, including a plurality of stored predetermined threshold temperatures

and including one of rendering one of said cooking points inoperational or reducing said calorific output of said cooking point if said temperature of said electronic control component exceeds at least one of said predetermined threshold temperatures.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, including a plurality of cooking points and assigning each of said plurality of stored predetermined threshold temperatures to one of said cooking points and increasing the value of said stored predetermined threshold temperatures in accordance with the distance of each said cooking point from said electronic control component.

29. (New) The method according to claim 16, including directing a primary air flow to said plurality of cooking points and arranging said electronic control component in said primary air flow for cooling said electronic control component.

30. (New) A gas cooking hob, comprising:
at least two cooking points;
at least one electronic control component with at least a second cooking point located further away from said electronic control component than a first cooking point;
a sensor for sensing the temperature of said electronic control component;
said electronic control component one of renders said first cooking point inoperational or reduces the calorific output of said first cooking point when said sensor senses a first predetermined threshold temperature; and

said electronic control component one of continues to operate said second cooking point or maintains said second cooking point calorific output unchanged when said sensor senses said first predetermined threshold temperature.

31. (New) The gas cooking hob according to claim 30, including said electronic control component resets one of the operability or the calorific output of said first cooking point during operation of the cooking hob.

32. (New) The gas cooking hob according to claim 31, including said electronic control component resets one of said operability or said calorific output of said first cooking point during operation of said cooking hob following the expiration of a preset cooling interval.

33. (New) The gas cooking hob according to claim 32, including a second predetermined threshold temperature lower than said first predetermined threshold temperature and said electronic control component resets said one of said operability or said calorific output of said first cooking point when said temperature of said electronic control component falls below said second predetermined threshold temperature.

34. (New) The gas cooking hob according to claim 30, including said electronic control component reduces said calorific output of said first cooking point when said first predetermined threshold temperature is sensed and then switches off said first cooking point if said temperature of said electronic control component still exceeds said first predetermined threshold temperature.

35. (New) The gas cooking hob according to claim 30, including a plurality of stored predetermined threshold temperatures and including said electronic control component one of renders one of said cooking points inoperational or reduces said calorific output of said cooking point if said temperature of said electronic control component exceeds at least one of said predetermined threshold temperatures and assigning each of said plurality of stored predetermined threshold temperatures to one of said cooking points and increasing the value of said stored predetermined threshold temperatures in accordance with the distance of each said cooking point from said electronic control component.